



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Application No.: 09/625,769
Filing Date: July 26, 2000
Applicant: IIJIMA
Group Art Unit: 2871
Examiner: ANDREW SCHECHTER
Title: DISPLAY DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS
USING THE SAME
Attorney Docket: 9319S-000142

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

APPELLANT'S REPLY BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 1.193)

This brief (which is filed in triplicate) is in reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 31, 2003.

ARGUMENT

Claim 16 calls for $H(\%) \geq -200d + 140(\text{mm})$ wherein d is the distance between the light diffuser and the light reflector, and H is the haze value of the light diffuser. In section 11 of the Examiner's Answer entitled "Response to Argument", the Examiner states that "no prior art teaches or suggests the discovered inequality". The Examiner then states that "[h]owever, the prior art does teach and/or suggest a device whose

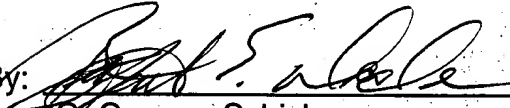
haze value (H) and distance (d) satisfy the inequality". The Examiner concludes by stating that "[t]his is not disputed by the appellant".

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion and asserts that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest such a device. More particularly, Weber teaches in FIG. 9 a transfective optical display 128 including a liquid crystal display device 130, a backlight 132, an optical diffuser 134, and a switchable translector 136. With respect to dimensions, Weber only states that "the complete transfective optical display 128 will be . . . relatively thin in cross section". While Weber describes various constructions of the backlight 132 and the optical diffuser 134, Weber does not teach the dimensions of these components nor the spacing to be provided therebetween (assuming that the backlight 132 includes a reflector as recited in claim 16). Likewise, while Weber describes the configuration of the switchable translector 136, Weber does not teach the dimensions of the components therein. Absent such dimensions, it is improper to conclude that Weber teaches and/or suggests a haze value (H) and distance (d) that satisfy the claimed inequality.

The examiner's prior assertions that there are at least two substrates 150 and 152 between the diffuser 134 and the reflector of Weber and that the light guide itself has some thickness are correct. However, the examiner's conclusion that d will be greater than 0.7 mm is without support. As such, the claimed haze inequality is not automatically satisfied.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Sept 24, 2003

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